

In the Claims:

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 3 of this paper. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Remarks

Remarks begin on page 9 of this paper.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A cap chute end subassembly for capping a container, comprising:
 - a fluid manifold for injecting a first non-oxygen bearing fluid into said container, said fluid manifold having a plurality of manifold apertures;
 - a fluid shoe operatively adjacent said fluid manifold for injecting a second non-oxygen bearing fluid into an open side of at least one of a plurality of caps and said container following said injection of first fluid;
 - a frame that supports said fluid shoe and is configured to hold said a plurality of caps;
 - a wiper supported by said frame; and
 - a pair of arms operatively adjacent said wiper [and rotatably affixed to the frame], wherein said pair of arms hold at least one of the caps for receipt by said container.
2. (Previously presented) The subassembly of Claim 1, wherein said first non-oxygen bearing fluid and said second non-oxygen bearing fluid are the same.
3. (Previously presented) The subassembly of Claim 1, wherein said first non-oxygen bearing fluid and said second non-oxygen bearing fluid are different.
4. (Previously presented) The subassembly of Claim 1, wherein said first non-oxygen bearing fluid and said second non-oxygen bearing fluid are a gas.
5. (Presently presented) The subassembly of Claim 1, wherein said first non-oxygen bearing fluid and said second non-oxygen bearing fluid are a liquid.
6. (Original) The subassembly of Claim 1, wherein said fluid manifold and fluid shoe are in fluid communication with one another.

7. (Original) The subassembly of Claim 1, wherein said fluid shoe comprises a plurality of shoe apertures.

8. (Original) The subassembly of Claim 1, wherein said wiper depresses said cap onto said container.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) A cap chute end subassembly for capping a plurality of in-line containers in an ambient atmosphere, comprising:

a fluid manifold having a plurality of first manifold apertures for injecting a first non-oxygen bearing fluid into said plurality of containers;

a fluid shoe operatively adjacent said fluid manifold;

said fluid shoe having a plurality of shoe apertures for dispensing a second non-oxygen bearing fluid into a plurality of caps and the plurality of containers;

a frame that supports said fluid shoe, said frame being configured to receive the plurality of caps at a receiving end of said frame;

a wiper supported at a dispensing end of said frame; and

a pair of arms operatively adjacent said fluid shoe [and rotatably affixed to the frame], said pair of arms being configured to [hold] position at least one of the caps for receipt by at least one of [said] the containers and to orient said at least one of the [plurality of] caps to [said] the at least one of the [plurality of] containers.

11. (Currently amended) The subassembly of Claim 10, wherein said first non-oxygen bearing fluid and said second non-oxygen bearing fluid are the same.

12. (Currently amended) The subassembly of Claim 10, wherein said first non-oxygen bearing fluid and said second non-oxygen bearing fluid are a gas.

13. (Original) The subassembly of Claim 10, wherein said plurality of shoe apertures comprise:

a plurality of first shoe apertures that inject said second fluid into said containers; and

a second shoe aperture that injects said second fluid into said caps following the injection of said second fluid into said containers.

14. (Original) The subassembly of Claim 10, wherein said pair of arms receives said plurality of caps at said dispensing end of said frame.

15. (Currently amended) The subassembly of Claim 14, wherein said pair of arms enables said [plurality of] containers to receive said [plurality of] caps.

16. (Currently amended) The subassembly of Claim 15, wherein said pair of arms holds said [plurality of] caps for injection of said second non-oxygen bearing fluid into said caps.

17. (Currently amended) The subassembly of Claim 16, wherein said pair of arms hold said [plurality of] caps at an acute angle to planes of openings of said containers.

18. (Previously presented) The subassembly of Claim 17, wherein said second non-oxygen bearing fluid is directed into said containers upon said second non-oxygen bearing fluid being injected into said caps.

19. (Currently amended) The subassembly of Claim 17, wherein said wiper places said [plurality of] caps parallel to said planes of openings after said second non-oxygen bearing fluid is injected into said caps.

20. (Currently amended) A cap chute end subassembly for capping a plurality of in-line containers in an ambient atmosphere, comprising:

a gas manifold having a plurality of first manifold nozzles for injecting a [non-oxygen bearing] gas into said plurality of containers;
a gas shoe operatively adjacent said gas manifold;
said gas shoe having a plurality of first shoe nozzles and a second shoe nozzle;
said first shoe nozzles for injecting said [non-oxygen bearing] gas into said plurality of containers;
said second shoe nozzle for injecting said [non-oxygen bearing] gas into a plurality of caps;
a frame that supports said gas shoe;
said frame being configured to receive the plurality of caps at a receiving end of said frame;
a wiper supported at a dispensing end of said frame;
a pair of arms operatively adjacent said gas shoe [and rotatably affixed to the frame]; and
said pair of arms being configured to [hold] position at least one of the caps for receipt by at least one of the containers and to orient said plurality of caps such that said [non-oxygen bearing] gas is directed into said plurality of caps and then into said plurality of containers.

21. (Currently amended) The subassembly of Claim 20, wherein said first manifold nozzles direct said [non-oxygen bearing] gas in a direction substantially perpendicular to planes of openings of said plurality of containers.

22. (Currently amended) The subassembly of Claim 20, wherein said first shoe nozzles direct said [non-oxygen bearing] gas in a direction substantially perpendicular to planes of openings of said plurality of containers.

23. (Currently amended) The subassembly of Claim 20, wherein said first shoe nozzles inject said [non-oxygen bearing] gas into one of said containers after said first manifold nozzles inject said [non-oxygen bearing] gas into said one of said containers.

24. (Currently amended) The subassembly of Claim 20, wherein said [non-oxygen bearing] gas injected into said plurality of caps is subsequently directed into said plurality of containers.

25. (Original) The subassembly of Claim 20, wherein said plurality of containers are moving in-line at least at about 275 containers per minute.

26-66. (Canceled)

67. (Currently amended) A cap chute end subassembly for capping a container comprising:

a fluid manifold for injecting a first [non-oxygen bearing] fluid into said container;

a fluid shoe operatively adjacent said fluid manifold for injecting a second [non-oxygen bearing] fluid into at least one of a plurality of caps following said injection of said first fluid;

wherein said container and fluid shoe are moveable relative to one another.

68. (Previously presented) The subassembly of Claim 67, wherein said container moves relative to said fluid shoe.

69. (Previously presented) The subassembly of Claim 67, wherein said fluid shoe moves relative to said container.

70. (Currently amended) The subassembly of Claim 67, wherein said first [non-oxygen bearing] fluid and said second [non-oxygen bearing] fluid are a gas.

71. (Currently amended) The subassembly of Claim 67, wherein said first [non-oxygen bearing] fluid and said second [non-oxygen bearing] fluid are a liquid.

72. (Previously presented) The subassembly of Claim 67, wherein said fluid manifold and fluid shoe are in fluid communication with one another.

73. (Previously presented) The subassembly of Claim 67, wherein said fluid shoe comprises a plurality of shoe apertures.

74-82. (Canceled)

83. (New) The subassembly of Claim 1, wherein said pair of arms are rotatably affixed to the frame.

84. (New) The subassembly of Claim 1, further comprising:
a plurality of containers in addition to said container, wherein the caps are placed on openings of the container and successive ones of the plurality of containers at a rate of about 275 to 600 per minute.

85. (New) The subassembly of Claim 10, wherein said pair of arms are rotatably affixed to the frame.

86. (New) The subassembly of Claim 10, wherein said first non-oxygen bearing fluid and said second non-oxygen bearing fluid are a liquid.

87. (New) The subassembly of Claim 20, wherein said pair of arms are rotatably affixed to the frame.